

ANNUAL MEETING

The 47th annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association was held in the beautiful State University of New York, at Albany, on June 12 through 14, 1970.

A council meeting took place at 2:00 P.M. at the Biology Hall Auditorium. While this meeting was in progress many of the members arrived to register at the impressive State Quadrangle.

After dinner, Mr. Thomas H. Davis, Jr. of Woodhaven, N.Y., presented an excellent color slide program on "Banding Fall Migrants on Long Island's Barrier Beaches." The lecture featured highlights of the two stations at which Mr. Davis has been most active, Tobay Banding Station (Mr. Anthony Lauro's station) in the John F. Kennedy Refuge and Fire Island Light Station (Dr. Paul A. Buckley's station) located on the western part of Fire Island National Seashore.

A reception with refreshments commenced after Mr. Davis's lecture.

On the morning of June 13th, a pre-breakfast field trip was featured and participants were able to observe a Virginia Rail from a distance of a few feet and many other birds breeding in the area. The trip to the Black Creek Marshes was led by Mr. Walter Sabin of Slingerlands, New York.

After breakfast, everyone repaired to the assembly hall in the main building fronted by impressive fountains and a "golden domed" watertower for the paper sessions. The meeting was opened by Dr. Robert P. Yunick, outgoing President, followed by a short business meeting and finally the election of our new President, Mr. Emil J. Berger, Jr. who took over the gavel. Mrs. Dorothy Foy was elected secretary, Miss. Mary Rebecca Cregar remained as Treasurer and new council appointments were made.

Mr Joseph A. Jacobs discussed 25 years of Osprey banding; Chandler S. Robbins spoke of the statistical methods in the gathering and presentation of return data and the treatment of mortality rates. Merrill Wood had some comments on his new book and spoke of the problems involved in the writing of such a compendium. Mr. Robert Pantle presented Dr. Peakall's report on the status of the North American Nest Record Card Program.

Miss Wilde Mellencamp spoke on White Throated Sparrow skulling, a very appropriate topic (see page 191), with vue-slides of the skull areas to be examined. Mr. Earl B. Baysinger rounded out the morning session with a status report of the Banding Laboratory.

Lunch followed the morning session, where Dr. Yunick announced who

the new editor would be.

The workshop sessions under the overall direction of Dr. Mary H. Clench of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa., began at 2.00 P.M. The following review was submitted to EBBA News about this part of the meeting.

The afternoon workshop session was devoted to discussions based on Merrill Wood's "A Bird Bander's Guide to Determination of Age and Sex of Selected Species". There were eight different topics presented during the sessions.

- I. Warblers, Part I - Chandler S. Robbins
- II. Warblers, Part II - Mrs. Katherine G. Price
- III. Finches and Sparrows - Dr. Charles H. Blake
- IV. Flycatchers - Dr. Robert P. Yunick
- V. Identifying other species - Mrs. Bradley Fisk
- VI. Nest Box Projects - Donald R. Wilkins
- VII. Netting Techniques for beginners - Will D. Merritt, Jr.
- VIII. Basic Data interpretation for Beginners - Dr. Mary H. Clench

In the six sessions that I was able to attend or hear tapes of that session, the experts made corrections and additions to Merrill Wood's book that will greatly aid the bander in the field. In addition, reference was made to two important papers from Bird Banding:

1. "Identification of the Flycatchers of Eastern North America, with Special Emphasis on the Genus Empidonax," by Allen R. Phillips, Marshall A. Howe, and Wesley E. Lanyon, in Bird Banding 37: 153-171, 1966.
2. "Identification of Connecticut, Mourning and Macgillivray's Warblers," by Wesley E. Lanyon and John Bull. Bird Banding 38: 187-194, 1967.

It would be to every bander's advantage to have access to these articles. (Back issues (July 1966 and 1967 respectively) may be purchased from NEBBA's Treasurer, Mrs. James R. Downs, South Londonderry, Vt. 05155, at the cost of \$1.25 each. Ed).

Finally, I taped with cassette tape, six of the eight sessions (One through five and eight) and the entire morning paper session. If any bander would like to borrow these tapes, I would be happy to lend them for a short period of time. Please write to: Mr. Gale W. Smith, 3367 Buck Road, Huntingdon Valley, Pa. 19006

